

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A method for treating a person, diagnosed for having an increased risk for the development of atherosclerosis on the basis of a polymorphism in the signal peptide part of the human preproNPY, said polymorphism comprising the substitution of the position 7 leucine for proline in the signal peptide part of said preproNPY, for the prevention of developing atherosclerosis, comprising administering to said person an effective amount of an agent counteracting the influence of the mutated NPY gene.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 4 wherein said agent is a pharmaceutical aimed to modulate synthesis, secretion or metabolism of the endogenous NPY, or to interact in a specific manner at NPY target sites by modulating effects of NPY with specific NPY receptor proteins.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 4 wherein said agent is a pharmaceutical aimed to modulate gene expression of normal or mutated NPY gene.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A method for treating a person, diagnosed for having an increased risk for the development of atherosclerosis on the basis of a polymorphism in the signal peptide part of the human preproNPY, said polymorphism comprising the substitution of the position 7 leucine for proline in the signal peptide part of said preproNPY, for the prevention of developing

atherosclerosis, comprising subjecting the person to specific gene therapy aimed to repair the mutated NPY sequence.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for treating a diabetic person, diagnosed for having an increased risk for the development of diabetic retinopathy on the basis of a polymorphism in the signal peptide part of the human preproNPY, said polymorphism comprising the substitution of the position 7 leucine for proline in the signal peptide part of said preproNPY, for the prevention of developing diabetic retinopathy, comprising administering to said person an effective amount of an agent ~~counteracting the influence of the mutated NPY gene~~ that modulates gene expression of the NPY gene comprising said polymorphism, wherein said agent is an oligonucleotide.

Claims 9-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A method for treating a diabetic person, diagnosed for having an increased risk for the development of diabetic retinopathy on the basis of a polymorphism in the signal peptide part of the human preproNPY, said polymorphism comprising the substitution of the position 7 leucine for proline in the signal peptide part of said preproNPY, for the prevention of developing diabetic retinopathy, comprising subjecting the person to specific gene therapy aimed to repair the mutated NPY sequence.

Claims 12-13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein said oligonucleotide is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 15 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein said oligonucleotide is a ribozyme.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached two sheets of drawing include new Figures 2 and 3. These Figures correspond to Scheme 1 and Scheme 2, respectively, as originally found on pages 16 and 17 of the specification.

Attachment: New Sheets of Figures 2 and 3